



United States Mission to the OSCE

Interpretative Statement on the Decision on the Scales of Contribution for 2005-2007

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 1, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you also, Slovenia for your very hard work in producing language in such a proposal that the United States is very, very delighted to be able to accept. I think all of us are very, very happy and comfortable that we will now have two years – at least – of peace. I thank you, Slovenia for that.

The United States of America wishes to make an interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations.

We would like to thank the Slovenian and Bulgarian Chairmen-in-Office for their efforts to bring about a just and fair set of scales of contributions for the OSCE for the period from 2005-2007. The United States has joined the consensus on the decision to establish revised scales of contributions, as we believe it is extremely important to put the OSCE on a stable financial footing for the next two years. We expect that having these scales in place will facilitate the prompt adoption of the 2006 Unified Budget.

We note that the United States was and will be the single largest contributor to the OSCE. Under the decision on scales adopted today, we will increase our contribution under the Helsinki scale by more than 27 percent. Our increase is the largest of any individual participating State. Our willingness to bear these increases attests to the significance we attach to the OSCE and its comprehensive approach to the promotion of security, in all three dimensions.

In joining consensus on the scales of contribution for 2005-2007, however, the United States has made no commitment to any further increases in the U.S. contribution beyond this period. Permanent Council Decision No. 408, adopted in 2001, established a 14 percent ceiling on the Field Operations (Vienna) scale. The logic behind that ceiling remains valid and we see no reason for changing it. Furthermore, in the thirtieth year since the Helsinki Accords were signed, we recall the significance of the concept of shared responsibilities (for both the Helsinki and the Vienna scales), and we intend to participate in fruitful future discussions on that basis. Moreover, it remains our view that all the criteria applied to future discussions on scales remain of equal weight.

The United States requests that this statement be recorded in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.